

# Radioactive contamination spreading in shuttered Hanford nuclear plant

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — Radioactive contamination is spreading inside a deteriorating processing plant on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state that was last used in the 1950s and 1960s to process plutonium for the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

The Tri-City Herald newspaper reported Monday that the facility is known as REDOX. It is located deep within the sprawling and heavily guarded Hanford site, which is half the size of Rhode Island, and the contamination poses no threat to the general public.

A new report recommends spending \$181 million on interim cleanup and maintenance of the abandoned plant. REDOX is not scheduled to be demolished until about 2032, or possibly later.

The report said doing some work on the building soon could reduce the threat of contamination spreading



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, File

Radioactive contamination is spreading inside a deteriorating processing plant on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash. that was last used in the 1950s and 1960s to process plutonium for the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

outside the building. Animals that get inside could spread the contamination, or it could spread if a fire breaks out in the building or its utility pipes break, the report said.

REDOX was used from 1952-1967 to process about 24,000 tons of irradiated uranium fuel rods to remove plutonium for the nation's

nuclear weapons program.

The report by the U.S. Department of Energy, which owns Hanford, said annual inspections of the highly contaminated plant from 2012-15 found that radioactive contamination was spreading, including by precipitation that leaked into the building through its roof

and joints.

Signs of animal intrusion and deteriorating asbestos were also found in several areas, the report said.

No one has entered the main part of the plant since 1997.

Contamination could be slowed and contained by demolishing a contaminated nearby building plus the main plant's attached annexes, the report said.

Two underground storage tanks that contained the chemical hexone that was used to make plutonium should also be removed, the report said.

The report suggested that doing the work to limit the spread of contamination would help officials retain workers with experience in decommissioning nuclear facilities at Hanford.

They will be needed as more federal money becomes available in the future for environmental cleanup, the report said.

# Governor Brown's chief of staff resigns

SALEM (AP)—Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's chief of staff, Kristen Leonard, has resigned, effective only a day before the 2017 legislative session begins, Brown said Tuesday.



Leonard

In a statement, Brown noted that Leonard began her job in late 2015, committing to serve for one year, and extended it to help oversee the completion of Brown's budget proposal. The resignation is effective Jan. 31.

Willamette Week recently reported that Leonard and her husband, Kevin Neely, had a financial interest in a book-keeping firm whose biggest client was Brown's re-election campaign, and that Neely's software company had a \$214,000 state contract up for renewal this year.

Brown spokesman Chris Pair said the resignation is unrelated to the reports, the Portland Tribune reported.

Brown's communications office tweeted

recently that Leonard had officially made the financial disclosures months earlier, providing a link to the information on the Oregon Government Ethics Commission web site.

Former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned in 2015 amid suspicion that his fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, used her relationship with him

to earn lucrative consulting contracts.

The couple has denied wrongdoing. Brown, then Secretary of State, became governor, and on Nov. 8 won the gubernatorial election to finish the last two years of his term.

The chief of staff manages employees in the governor's office and works with state agencies, other offices, and legislative leaders.

"Kristen executed this job with integrity and distinction, and I am grateful for her dedicated service," Brown said.

# Sagebrush defense plan will endure, officials say

By KEITH RIDLER Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — A new wildfire-fighting plan to protect a wide swath of sagebrush country in the Western U.S. that supports cattle ranching and is home to an imperiled bird will likely continue after the Obama administration ends, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Tuesday.

Jewell spoke after receiving her last update at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise where managers oversee the nation's firefighting resources.

Her 2015 secretarial order to protect sagebrush steppe spanning an area stretching from the Dakotas west to Oregon, Washington and northern California is considered by public lands experts, outdoor enthusiasts and scientists as one of the most significant federal land policy changes since the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. It regulated public lands to



Dan Cepeda/The Casper Star-Tribune via AP, File

In this April 22, 2015 file photo, a male sage grouse struts in the early morning hours on a leak outside Baggs, Wyo.

prevent overgrazing.

Jewell's order directed federal resources for the first time to fight massive blazes in open sagebrush steppe that supports cattle ranching, recreation and some 350 species of wildlife, including sage grouse.

She said she will pass along information from that meeting to Republican Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, President-elect Donald

Trump's choice to succeed her.

Zinke has advocated increased drilling and mining on public lands, but his position on Jewell's secretarial order is not clear. Zinke's communications director, Heather Smith, did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Jewell also said she will provide the transition team

details "on the importance of maintaining the momentum that we have in arguably one of the most effective examples of government working together collaboratively at all levels."

Western Republican governors have generally supported the effort that involves federal, state, and local agencies as well as ranchers trained to fight fires in the early stages.

Jewell's order "revolutionized how we approach rangeland fire in the West," said Ron Dunton, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's assistant director for Fire and Aviation. "It's a very collaborative approach."

In October, the Interior Department released a 139-page plan considered a how-to guide for Jewell's order calling for a "science-based" approach to safeguard the greater sage grouse bird while contending with fires that have been especially destructive in the Great Basin.

# Washington denies sublease for coal export terminal

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington state is refusing to allow its aquatic lands to be used for a major coal-export terminal along the Columbia River, dealing what one opponent described as "the final nail in the coffin" for the project.

Millennium Bulk Terminals proposed building a terminal in Longview that would export coal from Montana, Wyoming and other states to Asia.

Outgoing Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark announced Tuesday that he has rejected a request

from Northwest Alloys to sublease the state's aquatic lands to Millennium Bulk Terminals for the project. Goldmark said Millennium had refused to provide basic information about its finances following the bankruptcy of its previous owner, Arch Coal, last year.

A spokesman for Millennium did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Jay Manning, board chairman of Washington Environmental Council, praised the decision and called it the final nail in the coffin for the project.

## Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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### AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
15° 1°	16° 3°	23° 7°	25° 20°	33° 28°

### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
TEMPERATURE HIGH 21° LOW 18°  
Yesterday 21° 18°  
Normals 40° 26°  
Records 60° (1989) -9° (1910)  
PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.11"  
Normal month to date 0.18"  
Year to date 0.11"  
Last year to date 0.01"  
Normal year to date 0.18"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
TEMPERATURE HIGH 25° LOW 22°  
Yesterday 25° 22°  
Normals 39° 27°  
Records 60° (1996) -3° (1952)  
PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.10"  
Normal month to date 0.12"  
Year to date 0.10"  
Last year to date 0.01"  
Normal year to date 0.12"

### SUN AND MOON

First	Full	Last	New
Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 27

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	38	22	s	39	24	pc
Baker City	17	-8	sf	6	-10	pc
Bend	9	-9	sn	15	1	pc
Brookings	44	27	sh	42	28	s
Burns	23	-3	sn	11	-13	pc
Enterprise	18	-2	c	15	0	pc
Eugene	34	15	sn	30	14	s
Heppner	14	-1	sf	15	4	pc
Hermiston	21	5	c	19	7	pc
John Day	27	4	sn	24	7	pc
Klamath Falls	31	0	sn	20	-7	s
La Grande	21	0	sf	16	5	pc
Meacham	18	-3	c	16	3	pc
Medford	39	17	r	33	15	s
Newport	35	23	c	37	24	s
North Bend	41	26	c	42	26	s
Ontario	27	7	sn	13	-3	pc
Pasco	26	3	pc	20	3	pc
Pendleton	15	1	sf	16	3	pc
Portland	31	19	pc	33	16	s
Redmond	12	-14	sn	15	-8	pc
Salem	34	16	sn	32	16	s
Spokane	17	-2	s	11	0	pc
Ukiah	16	-4	sf	16	0	pc
Vancouver	31	16	pc	32	15	s
Walla Walla	19	6	c	17	6	pc
Yakima	26	0	s	22	0	s

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	47	24	s	40	26	pc
Hong Kong	75	66	s	75	68	pc
Jerusalem	51	40	pc	55	41	pc
London	47	28	pc	41	31	pc
Mexico City	76	46	s	78	47	pc
Moscow	18	16	sn	25	5	sn
Paris	43	30	c	42	27	s
Rome	52	39	s	52	28	pc
Seoul	47	25	s	50	28	pc
Sydney	75	66	sh	78	68	sh
Tokyo	55	42	s	50	36	s

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Thursday
Boardman	NNE 6-12	S 3-6
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	NW 4-8

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 1 0 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

**National Summary:** Bands of heavy snow will develop downwind of the Great Lakes as arctic air invades the East today. Heavy rain with heavy mountain snow is forecast for central and northern California with lesser snow inland.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 88° in McAllen, Texas Low -26° in Jordan, Mont.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	55	34	s	54	31	r
Atlanta	53	34	pc	56	34	pc
Atlanta City	54	30	pc	39	30	pc
Baltimore	53	24	pc	37	28	pc
Billings	4	-7	pc	10	1	s
Birmingham	49	31	pc	50	30	pc
Boston	27	10	sn	16	-3	pc
Charlotte, SC	50	28	pc	36	26	pc
Charleston, WV	69	43	c	63	44	pc
Chicago	19	8	pc	15	3	c
Cleveland	32	19	sf	24	15	sn
Dallas	47	34	pc	45	26	pc
Denver	20	0	sn	7	-6	sn
Detroit	26	17	sf	23	12	sn
El Paso	64	42	s	65	45	s
Fairbanks	21	8	sn	23	-21	sn
Fargo	-2	-15	c	-4	-13	c
Honolulu	79	65	pc	79	63	s
Houston	55	46	pc	66	45	c
Indianapolis	28	16	pc	21	9	sn
Jacksonville	72	49	pc	72	45	pc
Kansas City	24	11	c	18	4	c
Las Vegas	63	50	pc	65	40	pc
Little Rock	41	27	s	40	25	c
Los Angeles	61	55	sh	61	53	c
Louisville	35	22	s	29	17	sn
Memphis	42	29	s	39	26	c
Miami	84	63	sh	81	61	s
Millwaukee	17	5	pc	13	1	c
Minneapolis	4	-4	pc	3	-6	c
Nashville	40	27	pc	38	23	pc
New Orleans	60	45	pc	62	51	pc
New York City	52	27	pc	35	29	pc
Oklahoma City	39	21	pc	31	18	c
Omaha	20	7	pc	15	2	c
Philadelphia	54	26	pc	37	29	pc
St. Louis	66	48	s	67	50	s
Portland, ME	45	22	pc	33	17	s
Providence	51	25	pc	36	24	pc
Raleigh	62	32	pc	50	35	pc
Rapid City	4	-11	pc	7	-10	pc
Reno	48	33	r	36	15	c
Sacramento	53	40	r	52	31	sn
San Diego	30	19	s	24	12	sn
Salt Lake City	37	24	sn	24	7	sf
San Francisco	64	54	pc	64	56	sh
San Jose	55	45	r	52	38	s
Seattle	33	19	c	32	24	pc
Tucson	67	44	s	68	48	s
Washington, DC	56	28	pc	41	31	pc
Wichita	32	15	pc	25	10	sn

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.